

# MDRA PLATE TALK

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Fall 2024 Edition



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MINNESOTA DEPUTY REGISTRAR'S ASSOCIATION

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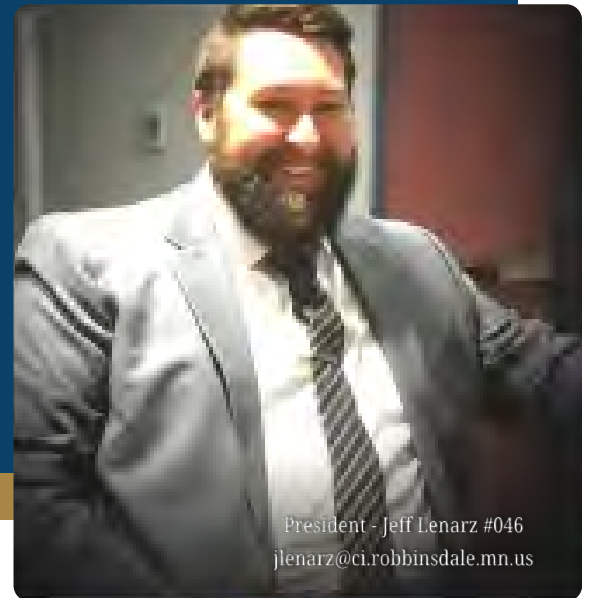
Amanda Berry - Region 2



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# President's

## PERSPECTIVE



President - Jeff Lenarz #046  
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### **Hello MDRA Members!**

First of all, I want to thank everyone who was able to make it out to our Annual Membership Meeting in St. Cloud on September 20th! It was a wonderful conference and Hospitality Night. You'll find some pictures later in this issue of Plate Talk. Membership elected three board members: Nick Heider to a second term, Phillip Freeman to his first term (he had previously been appointed to fill a vacancy) and finally Josh Orth was elected to his first term!

Mike Hintz had reached the end of his allowable terms on the board. Mike had served as Secretary and most recently Vice President. We also had a departure of a board member effective October 1st, Laura Laudenbach. I cannot thank Mike and Laura enough for their dedication to MDRA and its members during their tenure as a board member. Both have promised to remain active with MDRA! Due to the vacancy caused by Laura's resignation, the board is empowered to appoint a member to fill this position. At our October board meeting, we did just that by appointing Amanda Berry of Stearns County! I am happy to congratulate Nick and Phil on their continuing roles on the board and welcome Josh and Amanda as new board members!

As the first order of business at our October board meeting, we always hold an election of Association officers by the board. The outcome of this is as follows: Jeff Lenarz, President; Jeff Orth, Vice President; Nick Heider, Treasurer; Phillip Freeman, Secretary and Angela Hallquist, Communications. Speaking on behalf of all of the officers, we are honored and humbled to once again be chosen to serve MDRA and its members.

In this issue of Plate Talk, you'll find great things like a special report from our DNR Committee, a pre-election update from our Legislative Committee, and a fun revisiting of our Annual Conference! Thank you once again for your membership and partnership. I look forward to another great year!

### **Jeff Lenarz, MDRA President**

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# LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

JIM HIRST - Lobbyist    JEFF ORTH - Chair

As of the writing of this article, the November election has not yet occurred, but is fast approaching! However, while everyone's attention has been focused on the national race for president, our entire state house of representatives with 134 seats is on the ballot as well as special election for one state senate seat (the state senate is not up for re-election this year). These state races will determine who controls the Minnesota Legislature going into the 2025 session.

Currently, the DFL holds a slim, seven-seat majority in our state house, and only a single seat majority in the state senate. Should the state GOP realize a net gain statewide of just four house seats and win the single open senate seat—they will recapture the majority in both chambers. Alternatively, the DFL could retain the majority in both, or we could have a "split" whereby the GOP controls one body and the DFL the other!

We likely won't know the outcomes of these state elections until well past midnight on Election day (and possibly likewise for the presidential race too). However, there are some certainties we can predict going into the next session:

- **The DFL will still control the governor's office and administrative branch.**
  - Whether that's Walz or Lt Flanagan depends on the presidential race
- **The House Transportation Committee will have a new chair.**
  - Current chair Rep. Hornstein retired this year and isn't running for re-election
- **State Legislature will continue to have narrow margins of majority in both chambers.**
  - The state senate will remain a one-seat control for either the DFL or GOP
  - The state house margin will remain close regardless of who wins overall
- **2025 is a budget year for the legislative session**
  - This will be the dominant issue for our state lawmakers to enact the next two-year state budget.

Mindful of next year's state budget deliberations at the capitol, MDRA will be advancing an agenda that reflects our budget needs as well. This includes (but not necessarily limited to):

- **Extend the \$1 MV surcharge currently assessed only on Deputy transactions applicable on all similar DVS handled transactions**
  - Removes discrepancy and customer confusion
  - Dedicate the DVS surcharge proceeds for Deputy compensation & support
- **State compensation for "no-fee" transactions handled by deputies.**
  - DVS agrees "in principle" on this matter!
- **Increase filing fees for DNR registrations and renewals.**
  - No DNR increase has been realized for us in 20 years
  - Current DNR filing fees should now be doubled to match comparable MV filing fees
- **Classify on-site duplicate title printing as an expedited service (with expedited fee).**
  - Expedited fee would offset title stock and printing costs.
- **Require DVS to supply additional equipment beyond just a single item supplied to deputies and DL agents.**
  - This would include scanners, cameras, and eye exam equipment
  - Create routine DVS replacement schedule before failures occur
- **Allow deputy registrar offices, acting as third-party proctors for the written DL exam, to also offer the written motorcycle test.**



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# LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

CONTINUED

JIM HURST - Lobbyist    JEFF ORTH - Chair

Certainly, motor vehicle filing fee increases is always on our agenda as well! While that may not be specifically listed above, its always a perennial matter that may supplement or replace in part some of what we are seeking in 2025. Although our legislative agenda is set, it must always remain flexible to achieve our overall goals and objectives.

Our strategy will become clearer after the November election that will determine party control of the legislature. The 2025 session begins January 14th, and shortly thereafter a legislatively mandated DVS report is due on the financial status of the deputy registrar network. That report could offer additional opportunities (or setbacks) for us, depending on how it is presented. Once released, it will be shared with MDRA membership.

In closing, please remember that our annual **"MDRA DAY ON THE HILL"** event is already scheduled for next year in Saint Paul on **Wednesday, February 19th**. This is a great opportunity to join your fellow deputies as we collectively engage our lawmakers in person at the capitol and press our issues with them! More details to follow, but mark your calendar now and plan to join us! In the meantime, don't hesitate to engage with your lawmakers in your community ahead of the session to inform them of your operational issues and our legislative agenda!

Thank you, members, and remember to vote on November 5th!

**Jim Hirst, MDRA Lobbyist**

## 2024 ANNUAL LEGISLATOR RECOGNITION EVENT

### HONORING REPRESENTATIVE **BRAD TABKE** DISTRICT 54A VICE-CHAIR OF THE HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE



*This annual event showcases one outstanding member of the legislature who has demonstrated great assistance and support for the Deputy Registrars. This was an excellent opportunity to personally meet and thank a worthy lawmaker who deserves our appreciation. During this last legislative session, Brad was the chief author of the DVS policy bill which was amended (with his full support) to include all of our MDRA legislative initiatives which he faithfully then guided to final enactment. The event this year was held at the Social Centre facility at Turtle's Bar and Grill in Shakopee, MN on Thursday, August 15th.*



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# TODD'S CORNER



Todd Oseby - Trainer & Business Analyst  
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Minnesota Department of Public Safety  
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**HOWDY YA'LL!** Fall is finally here! Summer held on and was dug in like an Alabama tick, but now the leaves are changing and our glorious fall season has emerged.

I wanted to take some time to talk about scanning documents. How great is it that you barely have to send mail to DVS anymore? I think it is wonderful. I remember the days at Town Square when we had so many stacks of boxes of deputy work piled up the place looked like the warehouse they tucked the ark away in at the end of Raiders of the Lost Ark.



Long gone are the days of the dreaded barcode stickers, needing a two wheel dolly to get to the mailbox, and hoping the documents get scanned to the right record. The scanning capability and document viewer in MNDRIVE are the greatest thing since sliced bread! That being said, we still have a heavy responsibility for some quality control. While we need to zip around faster than a jack rabbit on a date in order to keep the line moving, it is important to take a deep breath and check our image quality.

Did everything get scanned? Are the images good quality? Can I see everything needed on the documents? Did anything get munched by the scanner? Am I missing anything? Even though I reviewed all of the documents at the start of the transaction (remember, it is still all about the paper 😊), are any signatures or important information missing from any of the documents? This is the last stop on the wagon trail to a successful transaction, and it is a great opportunity to give everything that last once-over.

Now all that is left to do is separate the paper into piles. Most items should go back to the customer or dealer. EDL questionnaires and disability certs get shredded/disposed of and ownership documents and lien releases go to DVS. Easy as pie, whatever that means. I never have an easy time of making pie.

You may be asking yourself, what do I get out of all this? Why should I take the extra time when I am already so busy and there is a line out the door? The answer to that is simple. There is a humorous expression out there that it is not government work if you don't have to do it twice. While that sure is funny, I would say it is never ideal to work with a customer more than once for the same service. One and done is my preference. If I missed something in my quality control check of scanned images or missed scanning in a necessary document, my customer will be coming back to see me as sure as sunsets and taxes. They may even be a little upset. Now I have to assist them a second time at no charge for something I missed. See what I mean?

Thank you for all your time! I am riding off into the sunset for now. Enjoy the beautiful autumn and all Minnesota has to offer. I will see ya'll in Time with Training!

# COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT

DNR with Mike Hintz

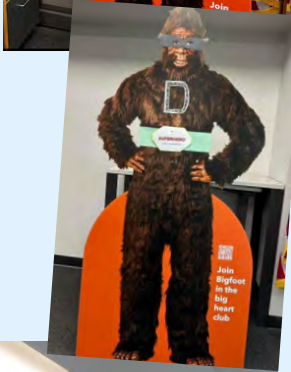


The DNR and the selected vendor PayIt! are continuing the development of the new DNR website and POS system. An in-person testing session was held in September and a couple of wireframe demonstrations have been held as well. Donny Vosen (Brainerd) and Erin Olson (Rochester) are involved in the development and testing of the vehicle side of things right now. PayIt! and the DNR have been very receptive to feedback from testers and deputies during the development process.

The timeline for deployment is on track for March 3, 2025. While these dates are to be finalized as the day approaches, all DNR transactions will need to be finalized on February 27th. No transactions while data migration and program transition occurs over the weekend and the new program launches on March 3. Offices will be receiving a survey for contact information and it will be crucial that offices respond to this survey.

There are many new things that we would like to see the new program be capable of. The DNR has heard our requests and wants to grow the program's capabilities. The goal for the launch of the new website is to make sure the DNR is able to do everything we do today. Several program improvements are on the schedule to be implemented, but will not launch in March. Our goal is to ensure that the program that launches in March is capable of serving the customers as we do today. That should be our focus during testing and development.

December will be 90 days before launch! Expect communications regarding the new program in December, contracts, training, access, hardware, and resource information in January, and final updates, training, and access confirmation in February.



LifeSource

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# MDRA ANNUAL MEETING

Friday, September 20th 2024 – St Cloud, MN



A huge **THANK YOU** to all who attended our annual meeting in September! It truly was a great conference, and we are so appreciative that you took time out of your busy schedules to spend your day with our members. We had 128 attendees, representing 82 offices. Our presentations were all informative and relevant to our operations.

***I would encourage you to set aside Sept. 19th and 20th for our 2025 Annual meeting in St Cloud, MN.***

Networking with fellow colleagues is the best way to find support and friendships within our work life.

***If you have any questions, please contact one of our committee members.***

***And with that, a big shout out to our hard-working committee members: Sue Jensen, Laura Laudenschach, Amanda Berry, Meagan Weber, Denise Vogl, Denise Ludewig, Brenda Jensen, Ramona Strolberg, Angela Hallquist, Shane Stark.***

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## THIS YEARS GUEST SPEAKER JACK ZIMMERMAN

*Zimmerman, who was raised in a small town in Minnesota, joined the U.S. Army and became an Airborne Infantryman. He deployed in 2010 with the legendary 101st Airborne Division. After spending nine months in heavy combat, Zimmerman, while on a foot patrol, stepped on an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) and suffered catastrophic injuries. As he lie there, his own life flashed before his eyes, while the platoon medic and teammates worked to save him and the rest of his team engaged the enemy. Zimmerman was not expected to survive that day, but twenty surgeries and two years later, he left the San Antonio Military Medical Center and medically retired from the U.S. Army.*

*Back home, his friends, family and community rallied around him to offer their support. Zimmerman tackled many hurdles in his first months home and struggled to find his purpose after leaving the military. Through many opportunities to serve, both personally and professionally Zimmerman found his passion in speaking to others and inspiring through his unique and valued perspective.*

*Today, Zimmerman is a devoted husband and father, a strong part of his community and an avid hunter and outdoorsman. He's likely to be found traveling the country, spreading his message of resiliency, whilst searching for his next adventure or at the dirt track where he enjoys promoting patriotism through his race team.*





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